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STATE REPRESENTATIVE 57th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Rep. Bernard Schaber Votes to Restore Public Safety Funding

Assembly Democrats, Attorney General Work Together on DOJ Budget Plan

Madison – Rep. Bernard Schaber (D-Appleton) joined with her Democratic colleagues on Wednesday to support a budget change that will restore funding to the Wisconsin Department of Justice. The measure was a product of a bipartisan effort with Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen, and it highlights the Assembly Democrats' commitment to ensuring that the state's top law enforcement agency has the tools it needs to keep Wisconsin safe.

"We've had to make tough choices throughout this budget process, but one thing we will always do is protect our most important priorities, like public safety," said Rep. Bernard Schaber. "I'm glad that we were able to work with the Attorney General on a solution that will help people and benefit Wisconsin."

"Public safety is the first priority of government, and it must be a budget priority as well," said Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen. "By reversing these proposed cuts, we can better assist law enforcement, protect crime victims, and enforce laws. I thank Rep. Bernard Schaber for her efforts to work with us in a bipartisan way on DOJ's budget to protect public safety in Wisconsin."

The solution agreed upon by Assembly Democrats and AG Van Hollen would reverse \$5.4 million in budget cuts to the Department of Justice that the budget writing Joint Finance Committee previously approved. The proposal would also give the Attorney General flexibility in providing additional resources for Assistant District Attorneys and Public Defenders.

This recent change goes hand in hand with the Assembly Democrats' commitment to public safety. The Assembly Democrats also support smart-on-crime provisions in the budget that includes supporting the Department of Corrections, full funding for GPS tracking for sex offenders, and \$10 million in community treatment options that will help address the issues fueling crime and better prevent crime from happening again.

"My local law enforcement is important to me and I am proud to fight for the resources they need to keep our communities safe," said Rep. Bernard Schaber. "I will continue to work with my constituents and local officials on every level throughout the budget process to help make this document the best it can be."

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